

Serial No. 10/619,412

Docket No. 2280-001

**In the CLAIMS**

Please cancel claim 10 currently on file.

Please replace the claims currently on file with the following claims:

1. (Currently amended) A portable chair is an assembly adapted for support on a surface comprising:
  - at least two side panels, each panel having at least a first base edge adapted to engage the supporting surface and a straddle edge, the panels being pivotally joined at the straddle edges enabling the panels to fold between a parallel, closed position and a splayed, open position;
  - at least a first pair of panel slots extending from the straddle edges in each panel, the first pair of panel slots being aligned when the panels are in the closed position; and
  - a seat member having a pair of seat stops complementary to the first pair of panel slots so that when the panels are in the open position, the pair of seat stops slidably mate with the first pair of panel slots for coupling the seat member with the straddle edges of the panels, the seat member further supportably spacing the panels in the open position,

wherein a weight is supported by the seat member; and  
wherein the straddle edges are contoured for forming diverging edge portions when the side panels are in the open position.
2. (Original) The portable chair of claim 1 wherein the two side panels further comprise:
  - a second base edge wherein each panel forms a substantially triangular envelope, the first base edge and straddle edge intersect at a first seating angle and the second base edge and straddle edge intersect at a second seating angle;
  - a second pair of panel slots extending from the straddle edges in each panel, the second pair of panel slots being aligned when the panels are in the closed position; wherein

the portable chair is operable to alternatively engage the supporting surface on one of either base edges for orienting the straddle edge between one of either seating angles, and wherein the seat member is coupled with either the first or second pair of panel slots respectively.
3. (Original) The portable chair of claim 2 further comprising:
  - at least a first pair of openings formed in each of the side panels, intermediate the seat member and a top of the chair, the openings being aligned when the panels are in the closed position;
  - a third pair of panel slots extending from each opening; and
  - at least a first support member having a first pair of support slots so that when the panels are in the open position, the first pair of support slots slidably mate with the third pair of panel slots for coupling the support member with the side panels for further supportably spacing the side panels in the open position.
4. (Original) The portable chair of claim 3 where the first support member extends beyond each side panel and forms an elbow rest.

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5. (Original) The portable chair of claim 3 further comprising:  
a second pair of openings formed in each of the side panels, intermediate the seat member and a base of the chair, the openings being aligned when the panels are in the closed position,  
a fourth pair of panel slots extending from each opening, and  
a second support member having a second pair of support slots, so that when the panels are in the open position, the second pair of support slots slidably mate with the fourth pair of panel slots for coupling the support member with the panels for further supportably spacing the side panels in the open position.

6. (Original) The portable chair of claim 5 further comprising:  
at least a first pair of rests, one per panel; and  
means for removeably securing the first pair of rests to the side panels intermediate the top of the chair and the seat member when the chair is positioned at the first seating angle.

7. (Original) The portable chair of claim 6 wherein the means for removeably securing each first pair of rests to each panel comprises:  
a tab extending from each of the first pair of rests; and  
a tab slot in the panel for receiving the tab, the tab frictionally engaging the tab slot.

8. (Original) The portable chair of claim 6 further comprising a second pair of rests, one rest per panel for alternatively securing the second pair of rests to the side panels intermediate the base of the chair and the seat member when the chair is at the second seating angle.

9. (Original) The portable chair of claim 1 where the side panels are pivotally connected with at least one hinge type mechanism.

10. (Currently cancelled) The portable chair of claim 1 wherein the straddle edges are contoured for forming diverging edge portions when the side panels are in the open position.

11. (Currently amended) The portable chair of ~~claim 10~~ claim 1 wherein at least a first diverging portion is formed at one end of the side panels for forming an open face rest.

12. (Currently amended) The portable chair of claim ~~11~~ 1 further ~~comprising~~ wherein at least a first diverging portion is formed at one end of the side panels for forming an open face rest; and  
further comprising:

a second diverging portion at the other end of the side panels to alternatively provide another open face when the chair is positioned at either second seating angle and, wherein a series of cushions removeably attach along the straddle edge to comfortably support a torso, chest and a face.

13. (Original) The portable chair of claim 6 wherein the seat member, elbow rests, and pairs of rests are removeably attached to the side panels when the panels are folded to a closed position for facilitating portability.

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14. (Original) The portable chair of claim 6 wherein the seat member, elbow rests, and pairs of rests are removeably attached with a hook and loop type fasteners.

15. (Original) The portable chair of claim 5 further comprising a fifth and sixth pair of panel slots extending from the straddle edges of the side panels, but running perpendicular to and crossing the first and second pairs of panel slots, respectively.

16. (Original) The portable chair of claim 15 having a kit of one or more additional attachments such as at least one additional surface member that removeably mates with the fifth and sixth pair of panel slots.

17. (Currently amended) A method for supporting a ~~mobility-impaired~~ user for a massage comprising:

providing a seat member and at least two side panels pivotally joined at a straddle edges edge and each panel further comprising a base edge, the seat member being releasably coupled with the side panels so that when coupled, the seat member spaces the panels in a splayed position;

opening the panels to the splayed position, supported on ~~the~~ each panel's base edges edge;

~~straddling the user over the splayed panels; and~~

~~mating with the seat member with the straddle edges of the panels to sandwich the user between the panels and the seat member, the seat member supportably spacing the panels in the open position so as to be adapted for supporting the user straddling the straddle edge in a prone position,~~

wherein the weight of the user is supported by the seat member.

18. (New) A portable chair assembly adapted for support on a surface comprising:

at least two side panels, each panel having at least a first base edge adapted to engage the supporting surface;

a straddle edge extending at an acute angle relative to the base edge, the straddle edge pivotally connecting the at least two side panels for enabling the panels to fold between a parallel, closed position and a splayed, open position;

at least a first pair of panel slots extending from the straddle edges in each panel, the first pair of panel slots being aligned when the panels are in the closed position; and

a seat member having a pair of seat stops complementary to the first pair of panel slots so that when the panels are in the open position, the pair of seat stops slidably mate with the first pair of panel slots for coupling the seat member with the straddle edge of the panels, the seat member further supportably spacing the panels in the open position,

wherein a weight is supported by the seat member.

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19. (New) The portable chair assembly of claim 18 further comprising:  
a second base edge wherein each panel forms a substantially triangular  
envelope, the first base edge and straddle edge intersect at a first seating angle and the  
second base edge and straddle edge intersect at a second seating angle; and  
a second pair of panel slots extending from the straddle edges in each  
panel, the second pair of panel slots being aligned when the panels are in the closed  
position; wherein

the portable chair is operably adapted to alternatively engage the  
supporting surface on one of either a first or second base edge for orienting the straddle  
edge between one of either seating angles, and wherein the seat member is coupled  
with either the first or second pair of panel slots respectively.

20. (New) The portable chair assembly of claim 19 further comprising:  
at least a first pair of openings formed in each of the side panels,  
intermediate the seat member and a top of the chair, the openings being aligned when  
the panels are in the closed position;

at least a third pair of panel slots extending from each opening; and  
at least a first support member having a first pair of support slots so that  
when the panels are in the open position, the first pair of support slots slidably mate with  
the at least a third pair of panel slots for coupling the support member with the side  
panels for further supportably spacing the side panels in the open position.